

SUPREME COURT RULINGS

Freedom of religion upheld

High court sides with Hobby Lobby

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on June 30 struck down a key mandate of the federal Affordable Care Act, ruling by a 5-4 vote for the first time that "closely held" companies may exercise their religious opinions and conscientiously object to providing abortion-inducing contraceptives to employees through their health insurance plans.

Writing for the majority in *Burwell (Sebelius) v. Hobby Lobby*, Associate Justice Samuel Alito, an appointee of former U.S. President George W. Bush, asserted that the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) provides individually- or family-owned businesses such as Hobby Lobby with protections against government mandates that violate religious conscience.

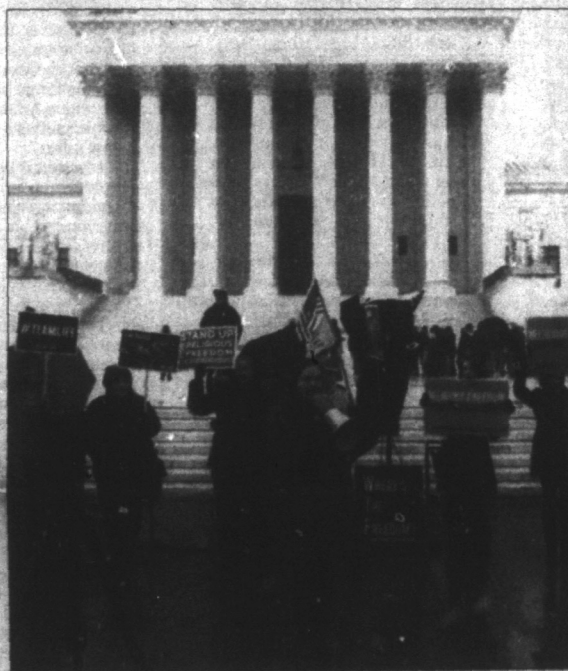
"Our responsibility is to enforce the RFRA as written, and under the standard the RFRA prescribes, the HHS contraceptive mandate is unlawful," Alito wrote. In finding in favor of Hobby Lobby, which is headquartered in Oklahoma City, the Court af-

firmed the ruling of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver and reversed the verdict of the Third Circuit on Philadelphia.

Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn., shared his thoughts on the ruling. "We are indeed thankful for the recent ruling from the Supreme Court. It is an absolute victory for the proponents of religious liberty. I am thankful that both common sense and conscience have seen a victory in a day where such victories are rare. For those who are strongly pro-life, I think this is a great day!"

Ronnie Floyd, newly elected SBC president and senior pastor of Cross Church with multiple campuses across northwest Arkansas, added, "I am thrilled at the ruling because it affirms that religious liberty is a core value of our great nation. The American people won a great victory today against governmental overreach."

see HOBBY LOBBY on p. 7



NO TO MANDATE — Supporters of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties rally in the snow outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., before oral arguments on March 25. A sharply divided court ruled June 30 in favor of the companies' religious freedom. (BP photo)

Pro-lifers assured freedom of speech

WASHINGTON (BP) — Just a few days prior to its historic Hobby Lobby ruling on abortion-causing drug mandates, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously delivered a victory for the free-speech rights of peaceful pro-life advocates outside abortion clinics.

The high court on June 26 struck down a Massachusetts law mandating a 35-foot buffer zone around abortion center entrances and driveways in which pro-life activity was barred. In their 9-0 decision, the justices ruled the 2007 law violated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, thereby reversing a federal appeals court opinion.

Chief Justice John Roberts, an appointee of former U.S. President George W. Bush, said Massachusetts took "the extreme step of closing a substantial portion of a traditional public forum to all speakers" in enacting the buffer zones. The law, which was a wide ban

see SPEECH on p. 8

New BSU directors named for campuses

By William H. Perkins
Editor

Two new Baptist Student Union (BSU) directors were approved June 17 by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Stephen Craver of Pascagoula will move from BSU assistant director to director at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) in Perkinston, while Daniel Herndon will move from minister to children at First Church in Piquette to BSU director at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit.

Craver, 28, is a 2008 cum laude graduate of Georgia College and State University (GCSU) in Milledgeville, Ga., holding a Bachelor of Arts in History de-

gree. He also holds a 2013 Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary (NOBS). He has been the BSU assistant director since August of last year.

Prior to that, Craver served as an intern at Baptist Collegiate Ministry at the University of New Orleans (2011-13) and as youth minister at High Point Church in Covington, Ga. (2009-10). Ministry-related experience includes serving as a volunteer outreach associate at Calvary Church in Covington, Ga.; a volunteer youth ministry assistant at First Church in Milledgeville, Ga.; Leader-



Craver



Herndon

ship Council for Baptist Collegiate Ministries at GSCU; and administrative assistant for the facilities department at NOBS.

Craver is married to Crystal, a first grade teacher at Gateway Christian Academy in Moss Point.

Herndon, 30, holds a 2011 Master of Divinity degree from NOBS and a 2007 Bachelor of Business Administration in Banking and Finance (cum laude) degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He also attended Pearl River Community College in Poplarville and is a 2002 graduate of Poplarville High School.

Herndon has served as min-

ister to children at First Church in Piquette since 2008. Prior to that, he was an intern at the Ole Miss BSU (2007-08) and interim youth minister at Springhill Church in Poplarville (2003-04).

Herndon's mission activities have included trips to Sri Lanka, China, and Thailand, as well as ministering in New Orleans, Panama City, Fla., New York City, and in Perlington after Hurricane Katrina.

He and his wife Karen, a school counselor, are the parents of Maddox, age two, and Grey, who was born July 3.

"Both of these men will be tremendous assets to Mississippi Baptist Student Union," said Weaver McCracken, MBCB

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

What did they say?

So much misinformation and semantic manipulation have been applied to condemn the June 30 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in what is commonly referred to as the Hobby Lobby case, that it made me want to once again review the use of newspeak in George Orwell's classic but chilling novel, 1984.

Today's decision from five male justices is a direct attack on women and our fundamental rights. This ruling goes out of its way to declare that discrimination against women isn't discrimination," said Illyse Hogue, president of the abortion extremist organization, NARAL Pro-Choice America. "Today it's birth control; tomorrow it could be any personal medical decision, from starting a family to getting life-saving vaccinations or blood transfusions.

"NARAL Pro-Choice America's message has always been clear: bosses who want control over their employees' personal medical decisions are offensive, out of touch, and out of bounds, and so is this ruling."

Wow. Here's another example. Carole Brite, president & CEO of Planned Parenthood of Illinois, said after the Hobby Lobby ruling, "The corporations in this lawsuit hold an extreme view, and unfortunately there are some politicians who want to go even farther — getting rid of the birth control benefit entirely."

Finally, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has kicked off their "Ditch the Dirty 100" campaign, in which they intend to boycott 100 designated businesses that "believe that they shouldn't have to follow the contraception mandate in the Affordable Care Act. Stand with NOW and tell them that it is not acceptable for employers to impose their personal beliefs on their employees."

Of course, very little of those statements are true. Even Hobby Lobby provides virtually every available type of birth control to its employees, with the exception of four types that the owners of the company believe don't prevent pregnancy but actually destroy a living human after fertilization.

Such comments and actions are bad enough, but it gets worse. There are people who claim to be

ministers of the Gospel who are just as radical on this issue.

After the Hobby Lobby decision, protestors showed up at the front door of a Hobby Lobby store in Naperville, IL, to hand out condoms. Among the protestors in a video posted on the Internet by The Daily Herald in Chicago was Mark Winters, wearing a clerical collar and identifying himself as a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

"The reason why I am here today is a couple of reasons. First of all, I want to make sure that people understand that not all Christians are opposed to contraception, but beyond that my concern is fundamentally that this is an issue partly about religious freedom and free exercise of religion, but the Supreme Court's decision did not respect the free exercise of employees of Hobby Lobby to disagree with their employer's religious practice and to have different opinions on that," he said, while his colleagues held condoms in plain view as teen girls passed by.

"But more than that I think the most important issue here is the issue of power and the issue that the powerful ones, the employers, their rights were protected at the expense of the rights of the employees, the less powerful. I don't know what Jesus thought about contraception. He didn't talk about it, but Jesus talked a lot about power and He did not [like] the powerful people taking advantage of their power at the expense of the powerless, and that's why I'm here," Winters said amid signs with messages such as, "Keep your hobbies off my ovaries."

Space limitations do not permit the deconstruction of Winters' and the others' statements, but it's nonetheless alarming any time a Christian minister — even if that's only his self-description — and Christians in general engage in the spread of such deceptive and manipulative language and actions that could well be ultimately responsible for the deaths of babies. People who have never known Jesus and His teachings will surely be led astray by such people.

Let us not be counted among them. The consequences of such efforts will be harsh (Matthew 18:6-7).

Hobby Lobby and freedom

The U.S. Supreme Court has the Obama administration — and hopefully the world — a lesson in the first freedom: The government cannot, and must not, require people of faith to violate their sincerely-held beliefs.

The June 30 ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties underscores religious liberty as our "first freedom." The freedom to exercise religion, enshrined in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, is the freedom from which all of our other freedoms flow.

This decision concerns only the contraceptive mandate in Obamacare and should not be understood to mean that all insurance mandates, such as blood transfusions or vaccinations, necessarily fail if they conflict with an employer's religious beliefs.

A LifeWay Research study in November 2012, however, showed that most Americans supported mandatory contraception coverage through Obamacare. In other words, the Supreme Court has seen a religious freedom issue where Americans do not; the majority of Americans are on the other side of Hobby Lobby ruling.

Perhaps it is helpful to note that this isn't simply a "freedom to worship" issue; it is a "freedom of religion" issue. It has become quite common to hear the debate framed in terms of "freedom to worship," a subtle but not inconsequential change in the DNA of "freedom of religion" protected in our Constitution. Religion (faith) belongs to every sphere of life, rather than a singular identifiable activity engaged or performed in a limited portion of life.

Earlier this year, a Pew Research study showed the U.S. government is increasingly hostile to religious liberty in this country. It is not persecution but it is an encroachment of religious freedom and, in spite of the media's (and some progressive Christians') dismissal of the issue, our LifeWay Research study showed the majority of Americans and the vast majority of its Protestant pastors believe religious liberty is on the decline.

So, where do we go from here? I suggest four things to consider.

■ **Understand the shift in our culture.** The subtle loss of religious liberty in this country is connected to a broader, deeper issue in our society. If there's anything we should take away from the Supreme Court ruling it is this: The ruling simply does not match the will of the people in the United States. Most Americans are not as passionate about the religious liberty issue (when



Guest opinion
with Ed Stetzer

connected to contraception, even abortifacient contraception) as most evangelicals and conservative Catholics.

Thankfully, the Supreme Court is showing more concern about the potential loss of religious freedom than the average American (and some evangelicals).

■ **Pray for rulers and those in authority.** Did you pray for the Supreme Court in this case? Did you pray for the President, or did you just post your opinion on Facebook? The Bible commands the former and does not mention the latter.

■ **Engage in mission.** We continue to have the opportunity to impact our culture as agents of God's Kingdom. Even though we don't have the cultural influence we once enjoyed, we are free to influence through the proclamation and power of the Gospel.

The answer to the decline of religious freedom and the change in the moral climate is not found in waging incessant cultural wars filled with rage at our changing culture. Simply put, you can't hate a people and reach a people at the same time.

The biggest problem with our secular neighbors and co-workers isn't that they don't share our biblically-grounded morality. It's that they have not yet experienced the grace and love of Jesus in saving faith. Let's live on mission so they might.

■ **Use the freedom we have.** It's easy to lose sight of the big picture. We still have great freedom here while Christians around the world are being killed for converting. Our freedom is eroding, but it's still enormous.

Let's live like resurrection people, adorning the Gospel with lives of grace. Even in our passion to defend freedoms increasingly at risk, let's remind ourselves this generation is desperately in need of the love of Christ, lived and shared.

Stetzer is executive director of LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

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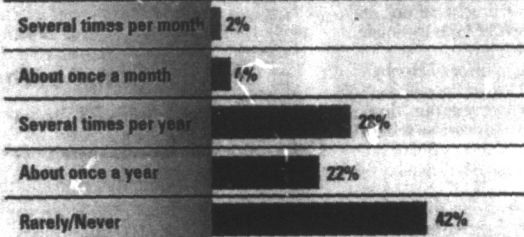
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Among Protestant pastors:

How often do you speak to your church in sermons or large group messages about domestic or sexual violence?

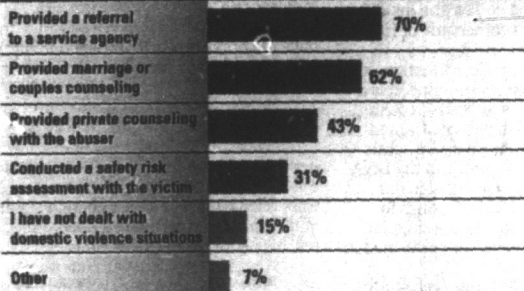


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Among Protestant pastors:

Responses pastors have used when dealing with domestic and sexual violence situations



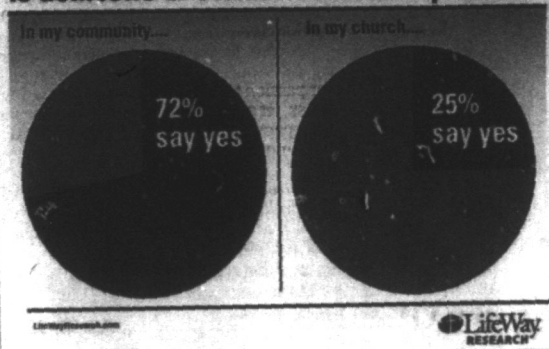
Notes: Pastors could select all that apply. "Don't know" was 1%.

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Among Protestant pastors who speak to their church about the subject:

Is domestic or sexual violence a problem?



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Survey: pastors don't address domestic abuse often enough

NASHVILLE (BP) — A new survey from LifeWay Research found most Protestant senior pastors say they know victims of domestic violence and believe stopping abuse is a pro-life issue — but according to the study those pastors seldom address domestic violence from the pulpit and less than half have been trained in how to help victims.

Those are among the findings of a new telephone survey of 1,000 senior pastors of Protestant churches from LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. The survey was co-sponsored by two Christian nonprofits: Washington, D.C.-based Sojourners and Maryland-based IMA World Health.

Sojourners president Jim Wallis said the survey shows churches can do more to address domestic violence. "This is a conversation the church needs to be having but isn't. We cannot remain silent when our brothers and sisters live under the threat of violence in their homes and communities."

The recent LifeWay Research pastor's survey is one of the first of its kind on the topic of domestic violence. Researchers found 42% of pastors "rarely" or "never" speak about domestic violence. Twenty-two percent speak to their church about the issue once a year.

"When two-thirds of pastors address the issue of domestic violence in church one time a year or less, we have a serious disconnect with the realities of American life," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research.

"Pastors cannot ignore or downplay the issue, when lives are being ruined — and sometimes lost — through sexual and domestic violence right in their own communities and churches. The church needs to

"This is a conversation the church needs to be having but isn't. We cannot remain silent when our brothers and sisters live under the threat of violence in their homes and communities."

Jim Wallis

Sojourners president

be part of the solution here. This is an issue where people of faith, across theological lines, can speak together that it matters, we care, and it must change."

Pastors also tend to downplay the possibility domestic violence can affect their congregation. For pastors who don't address the issue, 29% believe domestic violence is not a problem in their church. Pastors who do speak about domestic violence are more likely to say it is a problem for their community (72%) than their church (25%).

According to a 2010 national survey from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, more than 35.6% of women and 28.5% of men have "experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime."

That same survey found 24.3% of women and 13.8% of men have been "hit with a fist or something hard, beaten, slammed against something at some point in their lifetime" by an intimate partner.

Stetzer said, "The Gospel sets prisoners free — and that includes victims of domestic violence, who often feel like prisoners in their own homes. Pastors can do more to proclaim that message."

Justin Holcomb, co-author of *Is It My Fault?: Hope and Healing for Those Suffering Domestic Violence*, said victims of abuse often blame themselves — but hearing sermons about stopping domestic

violence reminds victims that God cares about their suffering and gives them hope that God can deliver them from the evil of domestic violence.

Some abusers, Holcomb said, use scriptures like Malachi 2:16, which says God hates divorce in some translations, against their victims. He believes pastors can counteract that message.

"God says He hates divorce. He also hates the abuse of women," Holcomb said.

LifeWay Research also found that 52% of senior pastors don't have sufficient training to address cases of domestic or sexual violence. Eighty-one percent say they would take action to reduce domestic violence if they had more training.

Seventy-four percent of pastors know of a friend, family member, or church member who has experienced domestic violence, and 83% say they would turn to outside experts in order to address cases of domestic violence.

Sixty-two percent have also provided "couples or marriage counseling" to those experiencing domestic violence. Advocates for victims say that's a dangerous practice, especially for women who are victims of abuse. A counseling session may actually lead to more violence, Holcomb said.

"She's going back home with that guy," he said, "and if she made him look bad in front of a pastor — she will pay for it when she gets back home."

Condemned Christian flees to American embassy in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (BP) — Persecuted Sudanese Christian Meriam Ibrahim is staying at the U.S. embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, for her safety, she told CNN by phone, and is unable to leave the country that in May condemned her to torture and death because of her Christian faith.

Ibrahim also said doctors have told her that her daughter Maya, the baby she delivered in May in a Sudanese prison, may never be able to walk because

Ibrahim was forced to undergo childbirth with her legs chained.

"Something has happened to the baby," she told CNN. "I don't know in the future whether she'll need support to walk or not. I couldn't open my legs so the women had to lift me off the table. I wasn't lying on the table."

Ibrahim's situation remains shrouded in controversy after a Sudanese appeals court overturned her death sentence and released her from prison June 23, only to have her subjected to

rearrest a day later as she tried to leave the country.

About 40 Sudanese police officers seized her at the Khartoum airport, accusing her of trying to flee Sudan with falsified papers. She has been released from jail on the latest charge but forbidden to leave the country, according to news reports.

"It's my right to use the papers and have a South Sudanese passport because my husband is a South Sudanese citizen. He has an American passport and South

Sudanese passport. I never forged any papers," she told CNN.

Ibrahim remains committed to her Christian faith but is afraid for her life and unsure of her next move, CNN reported on July 1.

Ibrahim was born to a Sudanese Muslim father and an Ethiopian Orthodox Christian mother, but her father disappeared from her life when she was six years old. Though her mother reared her as a Christian, Islamic law asserts she is Muslim by birth because her father was Muslim.

Ibrahim's marriage to Daniel Wani, a Christian, is treated as adultery under Islam's sharia law. She was given a sentence of 100 lashes for that offense. Authorities reportedly had planned to carry out the whipping and then the execution, after Ibrahim nursed her daughter to age two.

She and her husband also have a 21-month-old son, Martin, who lived alongside his mother in the prison because officials would not release him to his father due to his father's Christianity.

The article captured my attention simply because I was interested to know where my state, Mississippi, ranked. The title of the article was, "10 Worst States to Live In." I quickly glanced over the article and started going down the list. It was ranked 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1; only to discover that we did not make the top ten. According to the article they looked at numerous factors including crime rate, local attractions, health-care, environment, and we, in Mississippi, did not get in the top ten. Now I'm not going to give you the list here because I am afraid that if I gave you the list I'd have to stop and comment on some of them and I refuse to do that. I was pleased to see, though, that several of them were northern states and I wholeheartedly agree with their assessment, but, of course, a number of them were our southern states and southeastern states.

It is amazing to me that in the top five were found some states that were among the favorites of my thinking, including the number one worst state to live in, they said, not I said, was Tennessee. Where did these people go? What did they look at? Well, according to the article, the FBI stats from 2012 show that they were not in good favor with law abiding folks. Healthcare was not looked on favorably and their high rate of diabetes and obesity did not put them in good standing, either. The fact that many of the adults were smokers was a negative also. But, again, I was so elated that we didn't make the list, I could hardly pay attention to what they were looking at in these other places.



Choosing Where You Want to Live

Most of you know this, but in case you don't, I would just share with you and the whole world that I love Mississippi. I love her people, her places. I love her river, her coast, her mountains. I love her weather, especially when it's hot and humid. I just love Mississippi. I'm thankful the Lord has given me the privilege and blessing of living in Mississippi most of my life. I've lived in some other states, but if I could just make a choice on my own just to be somewhere, I'd be where I am. I'm blessed by the folks in this state, their hospitality, their kindness, their love. All that said I'm still glad we didn't make the "10 Worst States to Live In."

As I thought about it, I thought about the fact that so many people do not get to decide where they are going to live. I suppose that's all of us, pretty much, that our circumstances or influences that would pull us in one direction or another even if we could say we'd rather live somewhere else. But think about it. The day is coming when everyone of us can and must decide where we're going to live for eternity. There are only two choices, but you're going to decide. Heaven or hell and there is no in between. Your destiny will be decided by your decision related to the provisions of God in His Son, Jesus Christ. Just imagine heaven with all of its provisions

and joys. Heaven - where there is no sickness and there is no death and there is no sin and no broken and ruined relationships and no separation and no storms and no grief and no uncertainty or anxiety. The list of all of the good things that are going to be there and the bad things that are not going to be there are almost limitless to the point that the Scripture says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 2:9). It will be forever incredible.

The other destination, hell, is everything that heaven is to the extreme opposite: sorrow and pain, crying and unfulfilled desires and hopes. To say that it is indescribable is an understatement. Here is one of the most profound truths about heaven and hell. Once we are there, we will see the unbelievable reality of the fact that it was our decision to be there. It is a Jesus decision. John in his gospel, opens his book by saying, "He (Jesus) came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12). Throughout His lifetime here on this earth and far beyond as He sits at the right of the Father, Jesus offers life everlasting. It is free. It is for all. It is for you. And this very day you can receive Him or reject Him. Choose Christ today. Choose heaven forever.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Clarke Reunion Slated

► Alumni and friends of **Clarke Memorial College** are invited to attend the school's annual reunion on July 25 (5-10 p.m.) and July 26 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.). The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of First Church, Newton.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia:** Revival, July 11-13; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; children's activities: Sat., 5 p.m. with Nathan and Tammy Wells; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Rick Kennedy, speaker; Philip Alford, music.

► **Morgantown Church, Natchez:** 60th anniversary and homecoming, July 12-13; Sat., reception, 6 p.m.; Sun., service, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch, hymn sing, and special music; Arnold Norsworthy, speaker; Ed Pickle, music.

► **Sauls Valley Church, Monticello:** 100th anniversary, July 13; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; David Whitehead, speaker; Lynn Cooke, music.

► **Goodwater Church, Forest:** Homecoming, July 13; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; cemetery association, 1:30 p.m.; Robin Brumfield, speaker.

► **Ebenezer Church, Lexington:** Homecoming and revival, July 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., dinner, 6 p.m.; service, 7 p.m.; Ken Boyette, speaker;

Ronnie Cottingham, music; Ali-sa Drake, pianist.

► **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, July 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Steve Winstead, speaker; Howard and Susie Lockey, music.

► **Concord Church, Smith County:** Revival, July 13-18; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; 7 p.m. nightly; Hal Daigre, speaker.

► **Jerusalem Church, Attala County:** Homecoming and revival, July 13-16; Sun., 10:30 a.m. (no Sunday School), followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; finger foods following Wed. service; Derrick Wilson, speaker.

► **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth:** Revival, July 13-16; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Pittman, speaker; Kara Blackard, pastor.

► **Conehatta Church, Conehatta:** 173rd anniversary and homecoming, July 13; service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Jimmy Strickland, speaker; His Glory, music.

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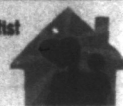
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The Board of Trustees of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. announce the formation of a committee to select the ministry's President/Treasurer elect.



Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc. cares for children in crisis in residential care at five locations across Tennessee and a state-wide foster care program. The President/Treasurer provides leadership and general supervision to this 123 year old ministry as approved and directed by the Board of Trustees.

Applications and nominations are being accepted during June and July 2014. To be considered, all applications and nominations must be received by the close of business **Thursday, July 31st**.

For detailed information regarding qualifications, skills and position duties, as well as the TBCH Employment application please see www.tbch4kids.org/presidentsearch.html

Interested candidates are requested to complete the TBCH Employment Application and forward it to president@tbch4kids.org or mail to: "President/Treasurer Search", P. O. Box 2206, Brentwood, TN 37024



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

July 10, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

**B
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WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE | 2014-15

All events are in the BSU Centers, unless otherwise noted.

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 1:07pm, Thurs - 12:35pm
Prayer Time Worship - every other Tues - 7:00pm

CO-LIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Prayer/Worship - Mon - 6:15pm
Prayer Bible Studies - Tues - 8:00pm
Chapel - Wed - 11:00am

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Focus Worship & Bible Study - Mon - 6:30am
Lunch/Encounter Bible Study - Wed - Noon

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 8:31am
Lunch/Encounter - Wed - Noon

EAST MS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Free Lunch & Bible Study - Mon - Noon
Worship - Tues - 7:00pm
Drama Bible Studies - Wed - 7:00pm

Golden Triangle Campus
Free Lunch & Bible Study - Wed - 11:45am

GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Prayer Bible Studies - Mon - Noon
Prayer Bible Studies - Tues - 12:20pm
Free Lunch - Wed - Noon

JACKSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Prayer Bible Studies - Mon - 7:00pm
Free Lunch - Tues - 12:30pm

PERKINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bible Study - Mon - 7:00pm
Free Lunch - Tues - 12:30pm

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Tues - 7:00pm
Lunch - Thurs - 12:30pm
Small Group Bible Study - Thurs - TBA

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Goodman Campus
Worship & Bible Study - Tues - 7:00pm
Lunch & Devotion - Thurs - 11:45am
Grenada Campus
Lunch & Devotion - Wed - Noon

Ridgeland Campus

Focus Factor - Wed - Noon

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 7:07 pm
Luncheon - Wed - 12:07pm

JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

Worship - Tues - 6:00pm
NOONDAY Lunch - Wed - 11:00am - 1:00pm

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Noonday - Wed - Chapel - 11:15am & 12:30pm
Arise (Worship) - Mon - Chapel - 1:14pm

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Vision Workshop - Mon - FBC Activities Bldg - 6:30pm
Community Missions - Wed - 3:30pm

MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 7:00pm
Noonday Lunch & Devotion - Wed - 12:00pm

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Priority - Tues - Bible Study & Worship - 6:15pm
Noonday - Wed - Lunch & Bible Study - Noon

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Noonday Lunch & Devotional - Thurs - 12:30pm

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Morning Devotion - Wed - 7:20am
Worship - Wed - 8:00pm
Bible Study Luncheon - Wed & Thurs - 11:00am

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship & Bible Study - Tues - 7pm
DeSoto Center - Free Lunch & Bible Study - Fridays - Noon

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon - 6:33pm
Lunch Encounter - Thurs - 11:00am
Lunch/Encounter - Wed - Noon - Hattiesburg Campus

SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship/Bible Study - Mon - 7:00pm
Noonday Lunch - Wed - 11:15am

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Main Event Worship - Tues - 7:00pm
Fresh Start/Freshmen - TBA
Transfers - Thurs - 7:00pm

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

7:01pm - Mon - Worship & Bible Study
12:01pm - Thurs - Lunch & Devotion

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

Campus LINK - Mon - Student Conf Center - 7:45pm
Priority Lunch - Tues - Student Conf Center - Noon
Prayer Breakfast - Fri - BSU Center - 9:25am

Baptist Student Union is the Mississippi Baptist ministry to our college campuses provided by your Cooperative Program gifts.

For more information, contact the Collegiate Ministry Department, 1-800-748-1651

**I WILL
GIVE YOU
A NEW
HEART**

EZEKIEL 11:19

**PRAY FOR GOD TO
RENEW OUR HEARTS FOR
HIS MISSION.**

**PLAN YOUR CHURCH'S
STATE MISSION EMPHASIS
BETWEEN AUGUST &
OCTOBER.**

**MARGARET LACKEY
RESOURCES PACKETS WILL
ARRIVE IN JUNE.**

Margaret Lackey
OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS
MISSISSIPPI

For more information contact the Mission Strategy Dept. at the MBCB | 1-800-748-1651, ext. 231

ALL FOR YOU

Surrender. Sacrifice. Serve.

ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION
WITH WMU ANNUAL MEETING AND MISSIONS LEADERSHIP TRAINING
HIGHLAND COLONY BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGHLAND, MS
AUGUST 22-23, 2014
NO COST • NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Special Guest



DENNY ANDERSON
National WMU President

Welcome



DEBORAH BRYANT
First Lady of Mississippi

Worship Leaders



JOYITA PEARCE QUARTET
London Church, London

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2014

5:30 p.m. Registration
6:30 p.m. Worship Celebration
8:00 p.m. Session 1: Conferences
9:00 p.m. 100th Girls' Auxiliary Celebration

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014

7:30 a.m. Executive Board Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration with Annual Meeting
9:40 a.m. Session 2: Conferences
10:40 a.m. Session 3: Conferences
11:40 a.m. Session 4: Conferences
12:30 p.m. Dismiss

www.mbc.org/wmu
Events > Annual Missions
Celebration, for brochure

For more information contact
the MS WMU office at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 319.



FALL Mother-Daughter OVERNIGHT

OCTOBER 17-18, 2014
5:00 P.M. FRIDAY - 2:00 P.M. SATURDAY

Some spend time with that special girl at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center.
Activities include worship, crafts, campfire and recreation. Individual mother & daughter registrations or group registrations accepted.

For more information, please visit garaywa.org
or contact Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, 601-924-7034.

2014 NORTH SENIOR REGIONAL RALLY

TUESDAY
AUGUST 26
CENTRAL HILLS,
KOSCIUSKO

662-289-9730 or dramage@mbcb.org
8:15 - 11:30 a.m.
\$1 at the door

2014 SOUTH SENIOR REGIONAL RALLY

TUESDAY
AUGUST 28
COVINGTON/JEFF DAVIS ASSOC.
FAMILY LIFE CENTER,
COLLINS

601-765-4689 or covjeff@bellsouth.net
8:15 - 11:30 a.m.
\$1 at the door

SPONSORED BY THE DISCIPLESHIP FAMILY MINISTRY DEPT. AT
1-800-748-1651, EXT. 304, OR 601-292-3226

2014 RISE UP & REACH OUT THROUGH BIBLE STUDY CONFERENCES

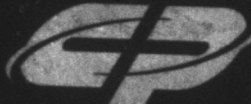
July 12, 2014
North Greenwood Baptist
Church, Greenwood
8:30 a.m. - noon
Dr. Wayne Marshall
Keynote Speaker &
Pastor/General Officer Leader

August 9, 2014
Petal-Harvey Baptist Church,
Petal
8:30 a.m. - noon
Dr. Larry LeBlanc
Keynote Speaker &
Pastor/General Officer Leader

Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291,
or 601-292-3291, Fax 601-714-7430,
e-mail cday@mbcb.org

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 (locally)

GuideStone



LEARN, PLAN, DO SOMETHING NEW!
2014 RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINARS
NINE LOCATIONS, 1 HOUR PRESENTATION, 30 MINUTE DISCUSSIONS

NORTH MISSISSIPPI:

MONDAY, AUGUST 11
X-TENDED MISSIONS ASSOCIATION OFFICE, HERNANDO

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
MONROE ASSOCIATION OFFICE, AMORY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
WINSTON ASSOCIATION OFFICE, LOUISVILLE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD, JACKSON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15
NORTH GREENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENWOOD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21
LAFAYETTE ASSOCIATION OFFICE, OXFORD

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI:

MONDAY, AUGUST 11
LEBANON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HATTIESBURG

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
JACKSON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, PASCAGOULA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
LINCOLN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, BROOKHAVEN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD, JACKSON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NEWTON

PRESENTED BY CHRIS ELKINS, GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

For more information, call Robin Nichols.
MBCB/GuideStone Rep. 601-292-3226



BNF Fall Retreat

October 17-18, 2014, at Garaywa
Camp and Conference Center

Contact Tammy Anderson:
tanderson@mbcb.org
601-292-3323 or 800-748-1651

IMPACT *Seeking God's Best*

IMPACT INCLUDES:

- Preparation Timeline
- Sermon Suggestions
- Age-Graded Lessons
- Promotional Poster/Brochure
- Colorful Bulletin Inserts
- Theme Films
- Supporting Drama Script
- Church Budget Form



CONTACT THE STEWARDSHIP/CF PROMOTION DEPT.
OF THE MBCB AT:

BAPTISTS

1-800-748-1651, ext. 274, or lilevell@mbcb.org



"God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done,
the saving of many lives." —Genesis 50:20



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

DEUTERONOMY

A CHALLENGE FOR A NEW GENERATION

SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

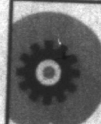
SKYROOM, 4TH FLOOR

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD JACKSON

REGISTRATION: 8:30 - 9 a.m.

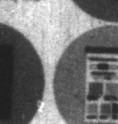
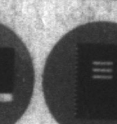
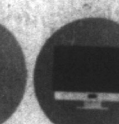
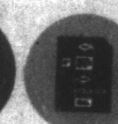
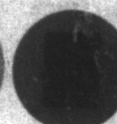
PREVIEW STUDY: 9 a.m. - noon

CONTACT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPT. OF THE MBCB FOR MORE INFORMATION AT
1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291.



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION & OFFICE SKILLSHOPS FOR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS

AUGUST 19-21 // GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER // CLINTON, MS

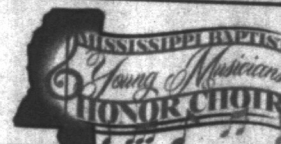


Jane Barrett
Professional Certification

Sandra Saylor

**SKILLSHOPS: Advanced Business English and Records
Management Techniques for the Ministry Assistant**

For more information contact the Pastor/Leadership Development
Dept. at the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or 601-292-3305.



The Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend
April 11-12, 2015 - Guest Choral Conductor: Susan Messer

No Audition Fee

Submit audition form & video audition beginning August 1, 2014.
Upon acceptance Choir Member cost for weekend is \$70 (covers
member meals, snacks, music, listening CD, Weekend DVD,
concert polo shirt).

For more information

http://www.mbc.org/church_growth/cm/honor_choir.aspx

Contact: Wyndy South, Church Music Department, MBCB
601-292-3272 locally or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272 (statewide)
or wsouth@mbcb.org



1:00 p.m. on Friday - 1:00 p.m. on Saturday

Cost For The Conference: \$30

Make check payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mail to:

Church Music Department

Music Mississippi

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

By August 4, 2014

For more information contact the Church Music Dept. at the
MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, 601-292-3267,
or e-mail palford@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

July 11 - 24, 2014

"For I consider that the present sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Romans 8:18

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medical church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Raymond & Cynthia Hodgins**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through sports evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffrey & Lissa Holuman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Janey Holloway**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Patricia Holyfield**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hearn**, missionaries ministering to North African, Middle Eastern Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Tony & Denita Inman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Lew & Brandi Johnson**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Millard & Susan Jones**, missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Melinda Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through personalization, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IWB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

1:00 p.m. Thursday, August 7, 2014 - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 9, 2014

Morrison Heights Baptist Church,
3000 Hampstead Blvd, Clinton, MS

Early Bird Registration

Fee: \$45

Deadline: July 10

After July 10

Fee: \$55

Deadline: July 31

Registration fee includes all materials and meals!

(Thursday dinner, Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday lunch)

Return registration form with check to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Paula Smith

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

Make checks payable to: MBCB

Go to www.mbc.org

Click "Special Ministries" on the left and click "Literacy" to download Registration Form.

Schedule of Conferences

Video Promo to use in your Churches

For more information, contact Cindy Harkness at

662-417-3944 / cindyharkness@mbc.com

or the MS WMU at 1-800-740-1651, ext. 319

9-2-03

MISS MIA

Parents: CJ & J

Restricted

9-3-03

MISS DAREY

Parents: J & K

Restricted

9-8-93

MR. NATHAN TILTON

Parents: J. & R

Restricted

9-9-95

MISS EMILY C.

HEWITT

Parents: Earl and

Ramona

Sub-Saharan African

Peoples

9-11-96

MISS HAYLEE

HOLEMAN

Parents: Jeff and Lissa

American Peoples

9-12-99

Miss Anna Grace

Parents: Phillip & Dawn

European Peoples

9-17-05

Mr. Nathan

Parents: Ray & Cindy

American Peoples

9-19-12

Miss Abigail

Parents: B & J

Restricted

9-23-94

Miss Amber

Parents: K & S

European Affinity

9-27-01

Miss Maegan Putnam

Parents: Tracy & Gentle

European Peoples

Encourage an MK with a card!



FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please be sure your cards arrive in WMU prior to the first date on this birthday list.



HOUSE TOPS

BIBL iO C i P H E R

FZYIZ VAGMHN FYVMFQ' ZMHQAQ,

PKV TMN P LNAOAKIA UPWA SMKE

LNPCANQ: OZAQA QZPSS NAIAYGA

ENAPOAN VPUKPOYMK.

UPNW OFASGA: TMNOC

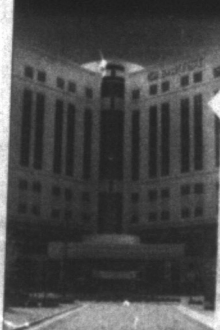
Clue: $U = M$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 6:9

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005



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in your family.



From your bronze booties through your golden years, Baptist DeSoto can help keep every generation healthy. Our maternity and pediatric services give every child the chance for a beautiful beginning, and our investment in technology and comprehensive services means every adult has access to advanced care close to home. Get better with Baptist.

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MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
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Get Better.

Vacation Bible School



LIBERTY CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY: June 21; forty-seven participants. Gary Tanner, pastor.



CENTER HILL CHURCH, HAMILTON: fifteen children were baptized June 29 as a result of VBS. Terry Edwards, pastor.



VANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO: After a tie between the boys and girls in their offering completion (\$340 given), both pastor Lee Falser and his wife Jordan received a pie in the face.



VICTORY CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN: June 22-26; average, 75; Thomas Wicker, pastor.



HOLMESVILLE CHURCH, MCCOMB: June 9 - 14, with an average of 27 children. The church was on the verge of closing two years ago with an average attendance of four; the church now averages 58 and this was their second VBS since last year. Lee Mathis, pastor.

In other VBS News:

► **First Church, Stonewall:** July 13 - 17; 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.; family night, July 17; Ages 3 (potty trained) - 6th grade.

SPEECH

cont. from p. 1

on entrance into the zones with exceptions for specified groups such as abortion clinic employees, "imposed serious burdens" on the speech of pro-lifers, he wrote.

For pro-life leaders, the unanimous ruling signaled that even justices who support abortion rights agree the free speech of sidewalk counselors and others seeking to help women in crisis pregnancies is constitutionally protected. It also appears to thwart ideas other states might entertain of instituting clinic buffer zones like those that resulted from the Massachusetts law.

Attorney Mark Rienzi — who argued in January before the justices on behalf of Eleanor McCullen, a grandmother who does sidewalk counseling in Boston — said the court's opinion "has affirmed a critical freedom that has been an essential part of American life since the nation's founding."

"Americans have the freedom to talk to whomever they please on public sidewalks," Rienzi, who is allied with the Alliance Defending Freedom, said in a written release. "That includes peaceful pro-lifers like Eleanor McCullen, who just wants to offer information and help to women who would like it."

The National Abortion Federation called it "an incredibly disappointing ruling." Martha Coakley, Democrat attorney general of Massachusetts, said, "We are not going to give up our fight to make sure women have safe access to reproductive health care."

The Obama administration's U.S. Justice Department sided with Massachusetts before the Supreme Court in defense of the buffer zones.

The court's opinion came in *McCullen v. Coakley*.

BSU

cont. from p. 1

director of collegiate ministry. "They are looking forward to being in area churches to preach and speak about BSU ministry on their campuses."

Collegiate ministries are supported on 30 Mississippi university and college campuses by

local churches and Baptist associations, and by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

For more information, contact the MBCB Collegiate Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3299. E-mail: ppowell@mbcb.org. Web site: mbcb.org/mission_strategy/cm/.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

CLASSIFIEDS

FIRST BAPTIST, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR TWO FULL-TIME POSITIONS: Young Families Pastor and Pastor to Senior Adults. Please email resume's to dalesykes@sud-denlinkmail.com

FOR SALE: 1978 STEINWAY MEDIUM GRAND PIANO, WALNUT. Like new condition, professionally tuned. \$18,000, contact Gordon 601-319-1547

GOLDEN ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS (GRADES 9-COLLEGE). Resumes may be sent to: 3405 South Railroad St., Phenix City, AL 36867, Attn: Gina Harper or emailed to: gabogina@att.net.

FBC, COOKEVILLE, TN SEEKING A SENIOR PASTOR. A multigenerational, Southern Baptist Church with an average attendance of 650. Position requires an experienced pastor with at least a Master's degree from an accredited Southern Baptist Seminary. Please submit resumes before July 31, 2014 to: FBC Cookeville, 18 S. Walnut Ave., Cookeville, TN 38501. E-mail: Searchcommittee@fbc-cookeville.org. Web site: www.fbc-cookeville.org.

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren. 801-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

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AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com. 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

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STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

MS POSITIONS

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 801 Oak Grove Drive, Meridian, MS 39301.

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME SECRETARY FOR 2 DAYS A WEEK (10 HOURS TOTAL). Must have computer skills and some bookkeeping. Please send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church, Attn: Myrna Qualls, 801 Oak Grove Drive, Meridian, MS 39301.

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH, QUITMAN, MS IS SEEKING A PASTOR. Send resumes to Harmony Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 5357 Highway 18 West, Quitman, MS 39355.

FAIRFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH IN MOSELLE, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Send resume to 942 Moselle Seminary Rd, Moselle, MS 39459 or email to fairfield@bayspringstet.net

FBC OF MAGNOLIA IS SEEKING A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Submit resumes to FBC Magnolia 126 South Clark, Magnolia, MS 39652.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Robert Mangum, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 115 Pinehill Circle, Meridian, MS 39114.

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IN GRENADA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR. If interested please submit a resume to Music Search Committee, 2604 Carrollton Road, Grenada, MS 38901 or by e-mail to enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com.

MORGAN CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF STURGIS, 15 MILES FROM STARKVILLE/MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please send resumes to Wayne Carpenter, 269 Tom St., Sturgis, MS 39769 or to morganann76@yahoo.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROOKLYN, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A YEAR-ROUND BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR. Please email cover letter, resume and reference list to allen@allfowerslaw.net.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED AT NEW NIGHT BAPTIST. Please send resumes to: Youth Minister Search Committee, 629 Forest Trail, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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Hopeful Faith: Hope of New Life • Ezekiel 37:1-3, 11-14, 23-28

The valley was filled with dry bones, which signify long-ago death. Dry bones mean the funeral has long since been forgotten and that the deceased is completely gone. The familiar face and distinctive hair is no more, and that person has been reduced to a common indistinguishable skeletal structure. Far more final than just one person dying, the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37 (KJV) came from many people. The bones were disjointed and separated. None of the deceased were accorded a decent funeral.

The events that led to the valley of dry bones were not a funeral but a calamity. The tragedy that preceded the calamity was that Israel rejected the Lord God Almighty and turned to worship false gods. When we worship false gods, we get what they can give, which is destruction (John 10:10 KJV). When we worship the one true living God, however, we get what He can give, restoration.

God asked the prophet Ezekiel if these dead unassembled bones could live again. Though Ezekiel was a man of faith, he replied "O Lord, Thou knowest it," (KJV). I suspect Ezekiel didn't think so but he knew better than to say so out loud. The Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy over the bones.

He obeyed and the bones began to rumble. They began to move and join each other in the right places. As Ezekiel watched the bones became bodies. The Lord then breathed into the bodies and they became alive, a living army. Then He told Ezekiel to tell the nation of Israel, "And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live," Ezekiel 37:13-14a (KJV).

Our lives are filled with dry bones, with the ruins of death and the failure of dreams. The failures in our lives are not simply disappointments and missteps requiring an eraser on a pencil; they are a true calamity born of disobedience and rebellion against God. Can hope be restored? O Lord, You know it. Great news! Restoration belongs to The Lord. As He did with the Valley of dry bones,

He desires to do in our lives as well. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 reads, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation," (KJV).

We are powerless against sins in our lives. The Lord Jesus loves us anyway. In order to come to the Lord and be saved, we do not have to clean up nor straighten up, we just have to give up. He does the cleaning and straightening when we allow Him to work in our hearts. The passage above says that we are a new creation in Christ. And then He gives us each the ministry of reconciliation. As the Lord breathes in us His Holy Spirit, He creates an army of workers who serve Him. We serve Him by sharing His message of restoration.

Often though, we look at lost people around us and only see their dead bones. We focus on the depth of their calamity and not on the dynamic power of God's restoration. Can these bones live again? Oh Lord, Thou knowest it. Yes they can. As the prophet Ezekiel spoke the word of God over the dead dry bones and they can become alive, we simply speak God's word to the lost and His power changes their lives. If God can restore a valley of the disjointed lives of lost people around us. Just as we cannot save ourselves, we cannot save the people around us. No matter how dead or disjointed are their lives, they don't need to straighten up nor clean up either, They just need to give up. God eventually brought Israel back to the promise land and restored them. God always keeps His word. If you have trusted in Christ, you too have been given that ministry of reconciliation. Paul told young Timothy to do the work of an evangelist and thus fulfill his ministry, (KJV). What are you doing with your former dry bones?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

Focused Faith • 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13

What you believe about God changes everything. Our last lesson in this quarter's series covered the attribute, God is Faithful. Now the question to us: Do I possess a resilient faith, one that will stand strong in the midst of suffering. For the next six weeks we will study the book of First Peter written by the Apostle of Hope, Simon Peter. We will learn that our faith in Christ should be focused, active, enduring, ready, joyful, and victorious.

The Romans had a saying, "While there's life, there's hope." The world's definition of hope is a desire or a wish being fulfilled. The Biblical definition is much different. It means confidence; putting complete trust and faith in the living hope—Jesus Christ. Warren Wiersbe states, "It is not the fact of life that determines hope, but the faith of life." The focal passage today focuses on a sure hope for the past, present, and the future.

Peter writes a letter "to the pilgrims of the Dispersion . . . (1:1), who were suffering and being persecuted for their faith. In this short letter you will find three major themes: suffering, grace, and glory. This is a letter offering encouragement as you go through the fiery trial (5:12-19). It is reminding us to depend upon God's grace (1:2-13; 3:7; 4:10, 5:5, 10, 12). Lastly it is

about God receiving the glory no matter what fiery trials we may be going through. "It is only when we depend on the grace of God that we can glorify God in times of suffering" (Warren Wiersbe).

Many times without warning our worlds can be turned upside down. How do we stand strong in the midst of suffering? How do we have a resilient faith and persevere until the end? According to the Merriam-

Webster Dictionary the word resilient means "able to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens."

Resilient faith gives us the ability to walk through the difficult times with peace and confidence. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection—His suffering—means we have a living hope. This hope, confidence in Him, grants us an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, it does not fade away, and it is reserved in heaven for you. He is victoriously sitting at the right hand of the

Father and we are promised He is coming again. His finished work brings us hope (1 Peter 1:3-4).

In the devotional, *Testing the Genuine-ness of our Faith*, Charles H. Spurgeon writes, "Untested faith may be true faith, but it is sure to be small faith, and it is likely to remain little as long as it is without trials. Faith never prospers so well as when all things are against her . . . Tested faith brings experience."

You could not have believed your own weakness if you had not been compelled to pass through the rivers;

and you would never have known God's strength if you had not been supported in the flood. Faith increases in quality, assurance, and intensity the more it is exercised with tribulation. Faith is precious, and its trial is precious too" (Morning and Evening Devotions, November 12). In verses 5-7, Peter describes faith as more precious than gold when it is tested by fire. Why? So that

"God's people may anticipate praise (the Lord's commendation in heaven), honor (possibly the crowns that will be distributed at the judgment seat of Christ, and glory (a precious, enduring and genuine faith) as a result of their suffering: (© 2013, The Jeremiah Study Bible notes). Through the daily experiences of life our lives are to reflect a steadfast faith in Christ."

In verses 8-9, we are given four directives to follow in the midst of our trials. We are to love Christ, trust Christ, rejoice in Christ, and receive from Christ. It is through His Word these things are accomplished and this gives us strength to walk in our trials. In verse 13 we read, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." We can look forward to the future because of the sure promise of salvation and an eternity with Him. This world is not our home. Look forward with hope.

Sing with me, "My hope is in the Lord who gave Himself for me, and paid the price of all my sin at Calvary" (*My Hope Is in the Lord*, written by Norman J. Clayton ©1945).

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.

Bible Studies for Life

with Laura Leathers



HOBBY LOBBY

cont. from p. 1

It serves as a strong reminder to each of us, that the First Amendment extends to individuals and business owners, not just to churches and other houses of worship."

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, said the ruling was an "exhilarating vic-

tory for religious freedom," due in large part to the fact Hobby Lobby owners David and Barbara Green, along with their children, had "refused to render to Caesar that which did not belong to him."

"As a Baptist, I am encouraged that our ancestors' struggle for the First Amendment has been vindicated. This is as close as a Southern Baptist gets to dancing in the streets with joy," Moore said.

Hobby Lobby filed suit in federal court after the passage of

the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. Under the law, the company was required to provide insurance coverage for nearly 20 forms of contraception, including four that resulted in abortions. One of those was the "morning after pill," which causes the spontaneous abortion of an implanted, fertilized egg. Since the company's owners believe life begins at conception, they objected on religious grounds and were threatened with massive fines for non-compliance with the ACA.

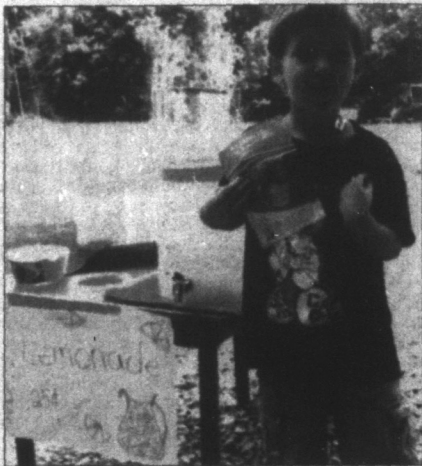
Mardel Christian Bookstores, founded by Green family member Mart Green and headquartered in the Hobby Lobby complex in Oklahoma City, joined the case with Hobby Lobby. In a separate case, Norman and Sam Hahn, owners of Conestoga Wood Specialties in East Earl, Pa., also challenged the ACA's contraceptive mandate in court.

Both Conestoga and Hobby Lobby lost their pleas for injunction in district court, and the Third Circuit upheld the denial

of the injunctions. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, however, reversed the decision, setting the cases on a path to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The government maintained throughout the proceedings at the Supreme Court that the federal government had a "compelling interest" in mandating the coverage of contraceptives. The Court, however, decided in a 5-4 decision there was no such interest when measured against the provisions of the RFRA.

Just for the Record



James Paul Wiltshire, 4, of **COILA CHURCH, CARROLL ASSOCIATION**, set up a lemonade stand to raise money for the Baptist Children's Village, raising \$42.



COVENANT CHURCH, GREENE COUNTY, honored pastor Grant McLain June 8 for 25 years of ministry. He received a crystal plaque and a monetary gift. He is shown with his wife, Donna.



LIBERTY CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, honored mothers in attendance May 11. Shown are Jean Dubard, mother with most family members present; Blance Dubard, oldest mother; and Ashley Chesteen and son Donnie, youngest mother. Gary Tanner, pastor.



Several members of churches from **WEBSTER ASSOCIATION** participated in a mission trip to West Virginia.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, recognized all fathers on Father's Day. Shawn Bailey was recognized as youngest father and Melvin Allen was recognized as oldest father. All fathers received a fishing lure at the end of the service. Hal Hatten, pastor.

In other Church News:

- **Concord Church, Little Yazoo**, will host Wayne VanHorn, who will present *In the Footsteps of Jesus* July 13, 6 p.m.
- The Gaither Vocal Band, with guitarist Kevin Williams and vocalist Charlotte Ritchie, will be in concert at **First Church, Jackson**, July 12, 6 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (855) 484-1991; information at (601) 949-1900.



STEELE CHURCH, SCOTT ASSOCIATION, recognized 2014 seniors Britney Sharp, Trey Rushing, and Brooke Thrash.



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, MERIDIAN, licensed Bradley Eaves and Daniel Ray to the gospel ministry June 15. Eaves serves as the church's youth pastor and Ray is a college student. Shown are pastor Corey Fortan, Ray, and Eaves.

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